

Please insert the following heading at page 5, between lines 25-26:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading at page 6, between lines 2-3:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please cancel the Abstract at page 31 in its entirety and insert therefor:

ABSTRACT

The systematic, and possibly repeated, acquisition of several distinct quantities for exploitation by a user system by utilizing a multiplexer with staged architecture without all inputs hard-wired. Each multiplexer stage is addressed by an elementary counter chained with elementary counters for addressing lower stages. The multiplexer inputs are scanned by regularly incrementing the chain of counters. If no precaution is taken, all the multiplexer inputs are scanned without considering their possible absences. To remedy this drawback a first elementary counter addresses the first stage of adjustable counting capacity switches, the elementary counters can address intermediate stages of the switches with controllable shunting circuits, and a global counter is reconfigured, at the end of each counting cycle of the first elementary counter, by commands adjusting the first elementary counter capacity, and activating or inhibiting the shunting circuits. The stored commands are a string of instructions executed one by one.